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 TO RUEHAD/USINT BAGHDAD 5590
 INFO GULF WAR COLLECTIVE
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PREL, MOPS ICRC, SHUM, US, IZ, IR
 SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HUMANITARIAN CONCERN RE GULF WAR

1. FOLLOWING CONGRESSIONAL LETTER TO PRESIDENT REAGAN IS TRANSMITTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION, AS AN INDICATION OF THE HUMANITARIAN CONCERN OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS OVER THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR. CONGRESSMAN DON PEASE (D-OH) DRAFTED THE LETTER.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

WE ARE WRITING FROM DEEP CONCERN OVER THE PROLONGED CONFLICT BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ. EVEN THOUGH OUR COUNTRY HAS VERY LIMITED INFLUENCE WITH EITHER OF THESE COUNTRIES, THERE ARE COMPELLING REASONS FOR YOU TO SPEAK OUT MORE VISIBLY AND MORE FORCEFULLY FOR AN END TO THIS SENSELESS WAR.

OUR SENSIBILITIES HAVE BEEN NUMBED BY CONTINUING ACCOUNTS OF THE TREMENDOUS LOSS OF LIFE AND THE IMMENSE SUFFERING INFLICTED BY THE FIGHTING. IRAQ HAS RESORTED TO THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AGAINST IRANIAN TROOPS. IRAN HAS SEEN FIT TO MOUNT HUMAN WAVE ASSAULTS OF CHILDREN, ELDERLY MEN, AND HANDICAPPED CITIZENS. WE APPEAL TO YOU ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS TO USE EVERY APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL FORUM AT YOUR DISPOSAL TO FOCUS ATTENTION UPON THE NEED TO STOP THE BLOODSHED.

FURTHERMORE, WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS VERY DANGEROUS FOR THE FUTURE OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IN THE REGION TO ALLOW THE SLAUGHTER IN THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR TO GO UNABATED. WHEN GOVERNMENTS ARE WILLING TO ENGAGE IN THE SORTS OF ATROCITIES ALREADY REPORTED IN THIS CONFLICT, IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER MIGHT DELIBERATELY UNDERTAKE ACTIONS TO ENGAGE THIRD PARTIES IN THE STRUGGLE IN ORDER TO SALVAGE ITS POSITION.

AS WE WRITE, IRAN HAS ALREADY AMASSED LARGE NUMBERS OF TROOPS AND WAR MATERIAL ON ITS BORDER FOR A NEW OFFENSIVE AGAINST IRAQ. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU ACT FOR THE

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